

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 7-26 are presently pending in the present application. Claims 7-15 have been amended and Claims 19-26 have been added by way of the present Amendment. No new matter has been entered (see, e.g., FIGS. 2-4, and the descriptions thereof).

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 7 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 7 has been amended to clarify that the king pin is offset with respect to the centerline and the king pin is fixed to the bearing (see FIG. 4 and page 6, lines 22-24). Additionally, the recitation of the offset of the king pin has been clarified by reciting that the king pin extends along an axis that is offset with respect to a centerline passing through a rotation shaft of one of the sheave and the deflector sheave. Claim 9 has been amended to remove the antecedent basis problem, and to clarify the recitation set forth therein. Accordingly, the Applicant submits that the claims are clear and definite, and therefore respectfully requests the withdrawal of the indefiniteness rejections.

Claims 7-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Eiji (JP 10-203761). Claims 13-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Eiji in view of Ito (U.S. Pub. No. 2004/0262091). For the reasons discussed below, the Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the art rejections.

The Applicant notes that a claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set

forth in the claims is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. As will be demonstrated below, the Eiji reference clearly does not meet each and every limitation of amended independent Claim 7.

Claim 7 of the present application recites an emergency brake device for an elevator comprising, among other features, a brake shoe portion having built therein a spring mechanism provided between a brake shoe and a king pin, where the king pin is fixed to a bearing of the rotation shaft, and where the spring mechanism has a first end movably supported by the king pin and a second end connected to the brake shoe. The Eiji reference does not disclose all of the above limitations.

The Eiji reference depicts a rotor shaft (3) with a brake drum (4) fixed thereto, and a bearing base (5) rotatably supporting the rotor shaft (3). The Eiji reference depicts a braking device that includes a pair of brake shoes (25, 26) that can move in a radial direction to contact and apply a braking force to the brake drum (4). The brake shoes (25, 26) are constantly biased outward in a radial direction by springs (31-34) that are provided between attaching parts (29, 30), which are fixed to the bearing base (5), and the brake shoes (25, 26), as clearly shown in Figure 2. (See, also, paragraph [0022] of the English computer translation provided with the Office Action, and Figures 1, 3, and 4.) The brake shoes (25, 26) can use support point rods (21-24) that are fixed to the bearing base (5) during pivoting and outward radial movement of the brake shoes (25, 26), as shown in Figures 5 and 6. Additionally, the braking device of the Eiji reference includes a release means (39) including a brake release magnet (35), brake release arms (36, 37), and release support -point members (38). Thus, the release means (39) uses the magnet (35) to counteract the forces of the

springs (31-34) when the braking device is not applying braking force, and the release means can deactivate the magnet (35) to release the springs (31-34) to actuate the braking device when needed.

The Official Action cites springs (31-34) of the Eiji reference for the teaching of the spring mechanism of the present invention, the brake shoes (25, 26) for the teaching of the brake shoe, and support point rods (21-24) for the teaching of the king pin. The Official Action indicates that the springs (31-34) are provided between the brake shoes (25, 26) and the support point rods (21-24). However, as is evident from a review of Figure 2 of the Eiji reference, the springs (31-34) have an end connected to the brake shoes (25, 26), and another end connected to attaching parts (29, 30). The springs (31-34), which are cited for the spring mechanism, do not have an end connected to the support point rods (21-24), which are cited for the king pin. Also note that ends of the springs (31-34) connected to attaching parts (29, 30) are not movably connected thereto.

Thus, the Eiji reference does not disclose a spring mechanism that has a first end movably supported by a king pin and a second end connected to a brake shoe, as recited in independent Claim 7 of the present application. Accordingly, the Eiji reference does not anticipate independent Claim 7. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the anticipation rejection of Claim 7.

Claims 8-18 are considered allowable for the reasons advanced for Claim 7 from which they depend. These claims are further considered allowable as they recite other features of the invention that are neither disclosed nor suggested by the applied references when those features are considered within the context of Claim 7.

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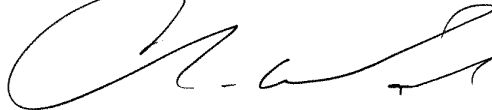
Newly added Claims 19-26 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Independent Claim 19 recites an emergency brake device comprising, among other features, a spring mechanism having a first end movably supported by a pin and a second end connected to a brake shoe. Thus, Claim 19 and the claims that depend therefrom are also distinguishable over the Eiji reference.

Consequently, in view of the above discussion, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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